

VRIS UPDATE

Eligibility on the Basis of a Hearing Loss Effective 5/14/10 Number 271

SUMMARY OF UPDATES

This update adds language around the symptom “tinnitus” and references a tool that staff can use for calculating the hearing loss thresholds and determining if the hearing loss meets the substantial impediment to employment criteria.

Tinnitus: The added language essentially indicates that it would be very rare that an individual would be found eligible on the basis of a tinnitus alone. The majority of the time, tinnitus is a symptom of another disease process, or impairment.

Audiology Calculating Tool: This is an excel document formatted to allow the user to enter the various hearing loss levels from the audiogram to calculate the pure tone averages for both ears; and if tested, the Word Recognition Score or speech discrimination scores. Based on the results of the data entered, certain fields on the tool will display the color green, red, or white. By using the accompanying Key, the user can determine whether the hearing loss meets the substantial impediment to employment criteria. The chapter contains a hyperlink to the tool.

VRIS POSTING

The chapter is posted to VRIS: Program Manual: Employment Program: [Eligibility on the Basis of a Hearing Loss](#).

The Audiology Calculating Tool is posted to VRIS: Materials: Case Service Forms and Worksheets: **Audiology Calculating Tool**.

TEAM COMMUNICATION

It is highly recommend teams practice using the tool together at a team meeting. Each specialist on the team can bring an actual audiogram. Pat Bracken is available to attend the team meeting in person, by iChat, or video conferencing once it is set up.

LEADERSHIP CONTACT

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